

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A computer-implemented method of processing possible duplicate contact records, the method comprising:
 - (a) comparing identity claims of at least two contact records;
 - (b) identifying possible duplicate contact records; and
 - (c) displaying a dialogue box that identifies the possible duplicate contact records and includes an option for merging the possible duplicate contact records.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the identity claims comprises phone numbers included in the at least two contact records.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the identity claims comprises addresses included in the at least two contact records.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein (a) is performed after that data in a composite record is synchronized with data in a store.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein (a) is performed after receiving a command from a user.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least two contact records consists of at least two composite records.
7. The method of claim 6, further including:
 - (d) receiving a command to merge the possible duplicate contact records;

(e) merging the contact data from the at least two composite records into a single composite record; and

(f) linking any publisher records that were linked to the at least two composite records to the single composite record.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the single composite record is one of the at least two composite records.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least two contact records are part of a computer operating system.

10. A computer-implemented method of unmerging an original composite record that is linked to at least two publisher records, the method comprising:

(a) receiving an unmerge command from a user;

(b) identifying at least one publisher record that the user wishes to unmerge from the original composite record;

(c) creating a new composite record;

(d) linking the at least one publisher record identified in (b) to the new composite record;

(e) unlinking the at least one publisher record identified in (b) from the original composite record.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein (a) comprises receiving the selection of a menu selection item that is displayed in a graphical user interface that also displays contact data.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the publishers records each correspond to a store and (b) includes receiving a command from the user that identifies one or more stores that the user does not want to synchronize with the original composite record.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the original composite record is part of a computer operating system.

14. A method of assigning priorities to contact data synchronized from at least two stores to a common database, the method comprising:

(a) receiving first contact data having elements arranged in a first order and corresponding to a contact;

(b) comparing the first order to the order of second contact data having elements arranged in a second order and corresponding to the contact; and

(c) when the first order is different from the second order, assigning an order to elements of a composite record corresponding to the contact.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the order assigned in (c) is received from a user.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the order assigned in (c) is determined by at least one rule.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the at least one rule assigns priorities to the order of at least some the elements of the composite based on the source of the corresponding data.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein the first contact data is included within a publisher record.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the second contact data is included within a publisher record.